

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

17 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

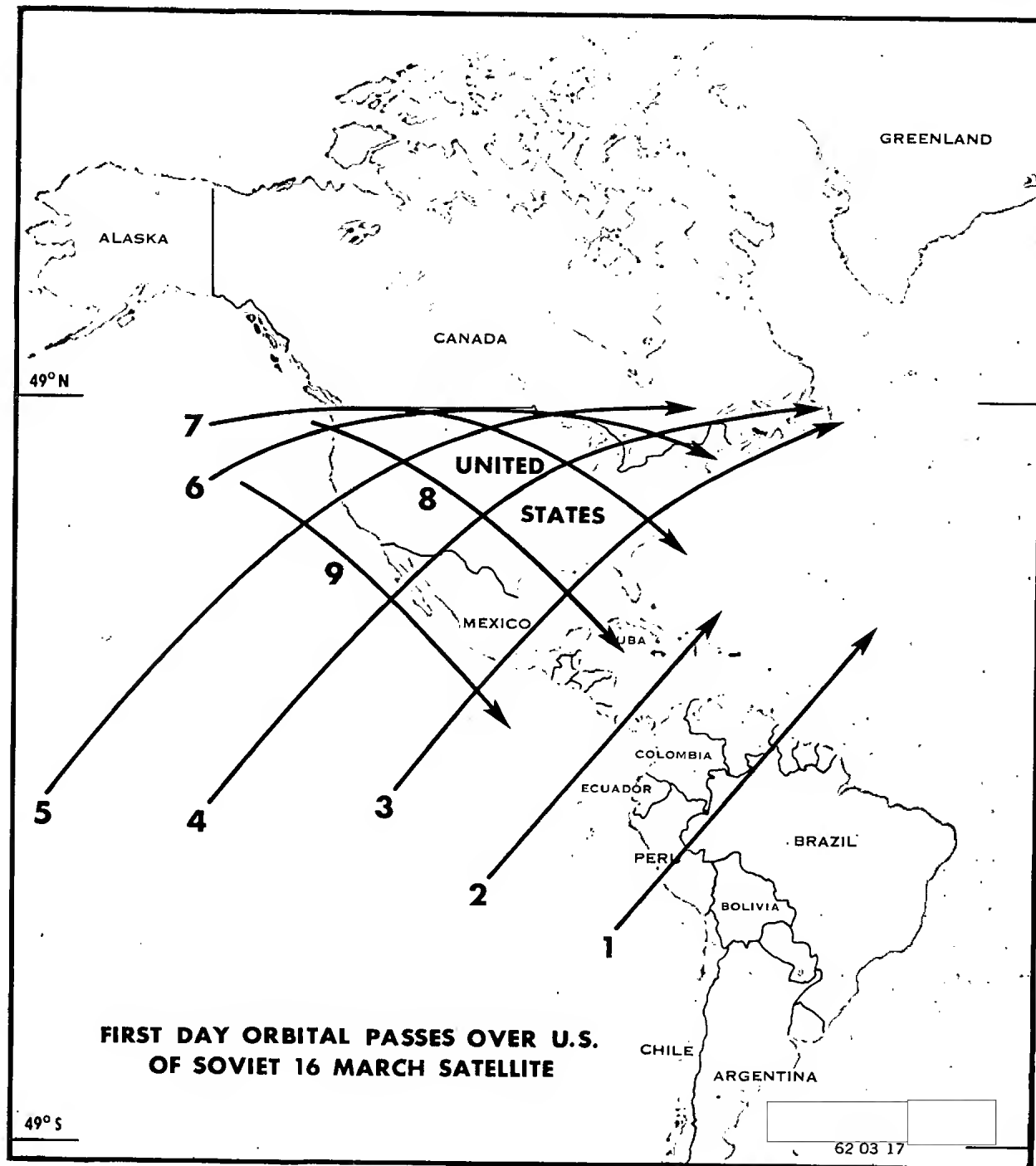
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1. Guatemalan situation

The strike spread yesterday, leaving normal activities in Guatemala City at a near standstill. Police functions, transport and electric power facilities are now under the control of the Ministry of Defense, bringing closer the prospect of a military take-over. Ydigoras, now turning to last-ditch measures to save his position, is threatening a levée of peasant supporters, some of whom are already being moved into the capital.

2. Trouble flares on Syrian-Israeli border

After a number of lesser incidents arising out of Syria's suspicion that the Israelis are planning to divert Jordan River waters, Israeli planes, artillery and tank-supported infantry this morning opened-up on Syrian positions east of the Sea of Galilee. A cease-fire has since been declared, but the situation is disquieting. Syrian units in the area have been put on the highest degree of alert and the evacuation of military dependents from the border is under way.



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3. Soviet space launch

Yesterday morning's launch used a smaller booster than the man-in-space vehicles and all signs point to an instrumented payload. The satellite's orbit is ideal for coverage of the US and it will pass over the US during afternoon daylight hours. It is possible that a photo reconnaissance function is involved. This was the first vehicle to be launched successfully from the Kapustin Yar site, where there were two failures late last year. This satellite vehicle launching is not the anticipated space launch and recovery operation for which preparations have been under way at Tyura Tam, where the stand down seems to be still in effect.

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4. Berlin corridors

The after-dark flights of four Soviet transports in the northern corridor went off as scheduled yesterday. Today's flights, again four, have already taken place in daylight hours, this time beneath the levels normally flown by Western commercial airlines.

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5. French government
braces for OAS reaction
to ceasefire

a. The OAS has Paris guessing on what its reaction will be in Algeria when the announcement comes. An immediate spasm of violence is feared, but there is some hope that the OAS will not run the risk of coming into the wide-open.

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6. Burma-Thailand

The possibility of a major uprising in northeastern Burma, where the Shan minority sees the Ne Win coup d'etat as a blow to its hopes for autonomy, has both Rangoon and Bangkok worried. The Thais fear that trouble there would spill across their borders and might invite intervention by both the Chinese nationalist irregulars and the Chinese Communists.

7. Laos

a. Gromyko has so far shown no inclination to force the question into the Geneva deliberations.

b. The King of Laos is standing behind Phoumi's opposition to Souvanna but seems to be no readier than before for a formula which would place him at the head of a government.

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NOTES

- A. Initial Indonesian reaction to news of Dutch ship movement plans is fairly temperate.
- B. Adoula has returned to Leopoldville and has agreed to meet Tshombé later today. It now turns out that Adoula's absence from Leopoldville at Tshombé's arrival was meant to be repayment for Tshombé's not having notified him officially of his coming.
- C. The Canadians, who last December concluded a wheat deal with the Chinese Communists for the first half of 1962, have now agreed to supply another 1 million tons during the second half. 50X1
- D. Spaak, who is due in The Hague and Luxembourg over the weekend for preliminary discussion on the upcoming EEC foreign ministers' meeting, is deeply pessimistic on chances for an early meeting-of-minds with the French on new steps toward European confederation. He says he has no confidence in the future foreign policy of De Gaulle in either the political or defense fields, and is particularly incensed by the French boycott of the disarmament conference. 50X1
- E. Lingering bitterness from last December's unsuccessful revolt in Lebanon, which closely follows Moslem-Christian dividing lines, has the Lebanese army command feuding. The government's precarious stability is dependent on the army's effectiveness.
- F. The Czechs are making some progress in their efforts to give the Bloc a foothold in Brazil's depressed northeast. The Czech Commercial Attaché has just offered a considerable enlargement in Prague's economic and technical assistance to the area and a bid for the opening of a consulate seems likely to follow.
- G. A joint invasion attempt by Paraguayan Communists and leftists, based in Argentina, is in the offing.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I.

[Redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE